

United States Patent [19]

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Anderson et al.

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[54] **BREAKAWAY LINKS FOR UNDERWATER GEAR**

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[58] **Field of Search** 43/43.12, 43.1.
43/44.83, 4.5; 24/3.4, 597, 908

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a breakaway link and a system for its use in conjunction with underwater gear, such as fishing nets, to prevent the prolonged entanglement and subsequent stress, harm to or death of cetaceans, including whales. The breakaway link system comprises underwater gear and at least one link which will rupture, break or experience calculated material failure upon receiving sufficient load induced by the force or struggling of the entangled cetacean. The breaking of the link frees the animal from the underwater gear, thereby reducing or eliminating the risk of severe stress, injury or death to the cetacean.

1 Claim. 6 Drawing Sheets

